



Who won
Game 3?

PAGE 3B

DEL RIO NEWS-HERALD

www.delrionewsherald.com | Serving the Del Rio community since 1929 | twitter.com/DRNewsHerald

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2013

\$1.25

'El Sancudo's' tale

Gutierrez's memory remains strong years after his death

By **ORLANDO VICUÑA**
Del Rio News-Herald

While people all across the United States will honor the fallen members of the military this weekend as part of Memorial Day, one former soldier's memory still hangs over the neighborhood he grew up in.

Every veteran has a unique story to tell, but the tale of Del Rio's Ramon

Gutierrez, known as "El Sancudo", or "The Mosquito", is one that will live on in the annals of this city's history.

Known as "Del Rio's Most Decorated Servicemen" by local historians and older residents, Gutierrez



Gutierrez

grew up in the barrio of San Felipe and in 1941 enlisted in the United States Army.

After basic training and upon his arrival at Camp Bowie in Brownwood, Texas, he was assigned to the 141 Combat Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Company E.

Company E would become the only military unit composed entirely of Hispanics during World War II, which also featured three

other men from Del Rio — Juan Padilla, Pablo Charles and Cruz Hernandez.

In September 1943, Gutierrez's division, 36th Texas, were the first to invade the European continent in Salerno, Italy.

During the invasion, Gutierrez and his platoon found themselves up against five enemy tanks and a machine gun nest.

Gutierrez, with his

Browning automatic rifle, charged the German machine gun nest. Gutierrez was eventually hit by three bullets, two that pierced his helmet, and one that hit his right arm, knocking the rifle off his hand.

Still left with his hand grenades, Gutierrez was able to advance on the enemy, killing several German

See **HEROIC**, Page 5A

Memorial Day events begin Monday

DEL RIO NEWS-HERALD

Del Rio's annual Memorial Day ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. Monday in front of the Del Rio Civic Center, 1915 Veterans Blvd.

"We invite the public to come to the ceremonies and honor our veterans," said Jesse Cardenas of the San Felipe Del Rio Veterans Honor Guard, who organizes the event every year. "It's important that we remember the sacrifices that were made for our country."

Major General Gerald Prather, USAF, Retired, will be the master of ceremonies.

Robert Wade is scheduled to sing the National Anthem and "Proud to be an American."

Capt. Peter Dumag, Laughlin AFB chaplain, will give the invocation.

Mayor Roberto Fernandez and County Judge Laura Allen will give welcoming remarks.

The keynote speaker is Col. Mark Doria of Laughlin AFB.

Doria will be joined by the commanders of all local veterans organizations and presidents of the local auxiliaries

See **EVENTS**, Page 5A

BARBECUE BATTLE



Photo by Orlando Vicuña | Del Rio News Herald

Jeff Caldwell, from Magnolia, Texas is coats one of the pieces of his entry in the chicken category at Saturday's 3rd Annual Ram Country Toyota BBQ Cook-off at the Val Verde County Fairgrounds. Caldwell's competed as part of "Pops Cookers". The grand prize in the cook-off was \$10,000 - the largest payout in the nation.

Dozens of teams chase Cook-off's \$10,000 grand prize

By **DIANA R. FUENTES**
Del Rio News-Herald

Despite a last-minute change of venue, the 3rd Annual Ram Country Toyota BBQ Cook-off attracted more than 70 teams of chefs looking to score the \$10,000 grand prize — the highest barbecue cook-off payout in the nation.

Overall, there were \$25,000 in cash prizes handed out Saturday for the best ribs, chicken, brisket, beans and fajitas.

"It's going very well, particularly when you consider that we had to move Friday morning," said event coordinator Jennifer Heilner on Saturday afternoon.

Originally, the Friday-Saturday event was to be held at an empty field near the dealership, but heavy rains Friday flooded the lot and forced the move.

"We had booked the fairgrounds just in case, never thinking we'd have to use it," she said. "But the rain came. So I called Commissioner

(Lewis) Owens at 6 a.m. Friday and he did so much to help us make the move."

Volunteers were vital, she said, including Jr. ROTC cadets from Del Rio High School, students from the school's welding class and its Future Business Leaders of America. There also were four officers from Laughlin AFB helping out, guiding the students.

"We had a huge number of volunteers," Heilner said. "We would have been dead in the water without

them."

Saturday was windy and sunny. The aroma of barbecue cooking was mouth-watering.

"I've sampled four or five," said Jim Jones, who lives out at Lake Amistad and was enjoying the event. "Two different ribs and three brisket. They've all been good."

There were many industrial-size pits on trailers and large, custom-made grills. One came complete

See **BARBECUE**, Page 5A

Man not guilty in cruelty case

By **KAREN GLEASON**
Del Rio News-Herald

A Del Rio man accused of breaking the leg of a cat he adopted from a local animal rescue group was found not guilty of an animal cruelty charge earlier this week.

A six-man, six-woman jury deliberated for less than an hour Thursday before finding James Paul Markowitz not guilty of a charge of cruelty to non-livestock animals: torture.

"There was just no evidence," said juror Raul Alatorre following the verdict. "It also seemed that there were a lot of personal issues involved here. I think it was the lady. I think she pushed this."

"The lady" to whom Alatorre referred was Anne Kienle-Garcia, president and founding member of the ani-

See **CRUELTY**, Page 5A

AUTO LOAN

RATES AS LOW AS

1.85% APR*

UP TO 60 MOS

SAVING PEOPLE WORLDWIDE—ONE AUTO LOAN AT A TIME!

Apply online 24/7/365 @

airforcefcu.com

830.488.6322

Air Force

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

* APR - Annual Percentage Rate as of May 1, 2013 subject to change at any time without notice. APR based on evaluation of applicant's credit. Your APR may vary. Estimated monthly payment per \$1,000 borrowed at 1.85% APR for 60 months is \$17.47. Promo code MNP-7004



BARBECUE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

with a kitchen sink and multiple compartments for different meats, but there were also regular grills you might see in someone's backyard.

"It's not so much the size of the grill, it's the technique," said electrician Carlos Cortez, who was part of a Del Rio team headed by Fernando Oviedo. The men were laughing and having a good time with their families as the cooking continued in early afternoon.

Oviedo, who is a plumber by trade, declined to share his secret for producing award-winning barbecue. "Ancient

Chinese secret," Cortez joked.

"We make our own," Oviedo said, referring to what he uses to season the meat. "It's an old family tradition."

Fred Tijerina of Laredo said his was one of the original 17 teams who entered the first Ram Country Toyota cook-off.

"We won first in ribs that year," Tijerina recalled, adding that he also participated last year and plans to come again next year. He makes regular trips on the barbecue cook-off circuit.

"Last week in Kerrville, we were first in brisket," he said.

Why does he do it?

"I'm 50," he said with a big grin. "I was too old to keep playing softball — your body has its limits — and I need to do something to get off the couch."

Asked if he has any advice for backyard cooks, he quickly replied: "If you're looking, you ain't cooking. That means if you keep opening the lid, you're not going to get done."

"My other advice is right on that sign," he said, pointing to a bright-orange bumper sticker that read: "Don't trust a skinny cook."

"It's true," he said, smiling.

Edward Cruz of Amistad

Ambulance said there had been no medical emergencies as of about 5 p.m.

Steve Blackburn was at the cook-off with his two nieces, Stajah Bishop, 11, and Sacred Greene, 8.

"We're having a good time," he said. "It's a nice family day out kind of event."

Heilner said she expects next year's event will be even better.

"We've already booked the fairgrounds," she said. "I think it's going to grow every year."

(Reach Diana R. Fuentes at (803) 703-3020 or diana.fuentes@delrionewsherald.com)



Photo by Orlando Vicuña | Del Rio News Herald
Sean Leschber from Tyler, Texas, quickly seasons his ribs before he throws it back on the grill during Saturday's 3rd Annual Ram Country Toyota BBQ Cook-off. Leschber was a part of Bad Boyz BBQ. More than 70 teams competed in the event.

HEROIC | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

troops and eventually forcing the German tanks to withdraw, leaving Gutierrez and his platoon able to secure the area.

The United States Army awarded Gutierrez with the Silver Star medal for his courageous effort in the battle field. The Soviet Union also presented Gutierrez with The

Order of Patriotic War 2nd Degree.

Company E continued to play a pivotal role in the war as they took part in the battle of San Pietro. Gutierrez was wounded a second time during this battle and was taken captive by German troops, but eventually escaped.

Gutierrez would be taken

captive a second time while in the battle of Velletri. While he was being interrogated he was able to make his escape, for the second time, as the building he was being held in was bombed.

In 1944, Gutierrez returned to the United States and was presented with the Russian medal that was given to the

Secretary of State Cordell Hull by the Russian Ambassador. Gutierrez received a total of nine medals for his service.

Upon his honorable discharge Gutierrez resided in San Jose, Calif., and raised five children with his wife, Connie. Two of his sons enlisted in the United States Army and served in Vietnam.

In 1993, Gutierrez passed away.

In 2000 in El Paso, a high school was named in honor of the commanding officer of Company E., Capt. John Chapin.

A rotunda at the high school was dedicated to Chapin and the brave men in Company E. Gutierrez's name

is inscribed on the rotunda as well as the other men that served in Company E.

The San Felipe Exes building also has a memorial for Gutierrez.

Gutierrez's cousin, Dave Gutierrez, is currently working on biography about Ramon and the men of Company E.

EVENTS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

in front of the monument.

"They will give a special salute to our brave veterans that paid the supreme sacrifice to our country," Cardenas said.

After that, there will be a firing of 21 volleys by the San Felipe Del Rio Veterans Honor Guard in honor of the

deceased veterans, and Taps will be sounded by San Felipe Del Rio Rams Band members Clarissa Faz and Mark Esquivel.

Prather will give the closing remarks.

The colors will be presented and retired by the SFDR

Veterans Honor Guard at the appropriate times during the event.

Cardenas organized the program and presents it in conjunction with all veteran organizations, the City of Del Rio, Val Verde County and Laughlin AFB.

CRUELTY | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

mal rescue group Friends of Del Rio Animals, who was the state's first witness in its case against Markowitz.

Kienle-Garcia testified that Markowitz adopted two kittens from the Friends of Del Rio Animals in the summer of 2010. She told the jury the two kittens were from a litter of four that had been found outside Fisherman's Headquarters just north of Del Rio.

Kienle-Garcia told the jury that four days after Markowitz adopted the kittens, he contacted her in an attempt to get after-hours vet care for one of them. She said Markowitz told her the kitten had suffered a broken leg.

Kienle-Garcia also testified that the second kitten later suffered injuries as well and said she began to suspect Markowitz was responsible for the cats' injuries after visiting the animals in his home.

Eventually, Kienle-Garcia said, she took the kittens back and never saw Markowitz again.

The animal rescue group president also testified that she made attempts to report the abuse to the Del Rio Police, but said the officers and administrators she spoke to there never moved on the case. Kienle-Garcia eventually reported the abuse to the Val Verde County Sheriff's Office, which conducted the investigation and presented the case to the district attorney's office.

Under cross-examination by Markowitz's attorney, Sostenes Mireles II of Del Rio, Kienle-Garcia admitted that she had never seen anyone harm the kittens.

The jurors also heard testimony from Dr. Laura Pharr, a veterinarian with the Val Verde Veterinary Hospital in Del Rio.

Pharr said she treated Tetra, one of the kittens, on three different occasions for injuries and treated the other kitten, Shrimp, once.

Pharr discussed the cats' medical records and treat-

ment she provided and said Markowitz seemed "frantic and alarmed" on at least one occasion when he sought treatment for the kittens.

She testified that after she had treated Tetra for a broken foreleg, she soon had to treat the kitten again for additional injuries, including a second break of the same leg she had treated previously.

Finally, the jury heard from VVSO Deputy Eduardo Pena, who took the initial report on the case.

Pena testified that Kienle-Garcia believed that Markowitz had harmed the kittens and said she called the breaks in one of the kitten's legs "suspicious."

Pena also testified that no one from the sheriff's office was ever able to contact Markowitz. The deputy said when attempts were made to find Markowitz at the address Kienle-Garcia provided, he was told that Markowitz had moved out of the state.

Markowitz did not testify in the case, and the defense presented no witnesses.

In his closing statement to the jury, Assistant District Attorney Jackson Lindsey summarized the statements made by the state's three witnesses and said when confronted about the kittens' injuries, Markowitz "conveniently blamed" an unnamed roommate he claimed was living with his family at the time.

Mireles, in his closing statement, asked jurors to examine the evidence in the same way that they would in a trial involving injury to a human being.

"There was not one single witness that testified that my client injured any kittens," Mireles told the jurors.

He also asked the jurors not to convict his client because one person — Kienle-Garcia — believed that he had injured the kittens.

"Should someone be convicted of a crime simply because someone else thinks they did it?" Mireles asked.

Jurors agreed with Mireles, and quickly found Markowitz not guilty.

Alatorre summed up the thoughts of his fellow jurors: "I love animals too, but I think some people just take it to the extreme. There was just nothing there."

Reach Karen Gleason at 734-3021 or at karen.gleason@delrionewsherald.com

PETE ORTIZ

recently joined the staff at **Brown Automotive Center.**

Pete is the new General Sales Manager at Brown Automotive Center where he is responsible for both, new and used vehicle departments and customer relations. He has been involved in the automotive business for 30 years.

Pete is married and has 6 children; Lanette, Yvette, Chris, Jojo, Michael & Leah. He is a member of Sacred Heart Church, United Way and The Civil Service Committee.

I am proud to announce that I have joined the Brown Automotive Family. My love for the city of Del Rio and surrounding communities and my passion for the auto industry and working for a reputable family owned and operated business has presented itself and I could not be happier.



Please come by and see our new GMC, Chevrolet, Buick, and Cadillac vehicles as well as our large pre-owned inventory.

Call me at 830-775-7550 or stop by Brown Automotive Center at 2520 Veterans Blvd for all your vehicle needs and where you will be treated like family.

THANK YOU DEL RIO FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Pete Ortiz

Recognize Your Graduate's Achievement



The Del Rio News-Herald will publish a commemorative special section honoring the **GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013.**

This issue will feature pictures and special messages from family and friends.

Don't leave your graduating senior out!

This publication will include information on graduates from:

- Del Rio High School**
- Brackett High School**
- Comstock High School**
- Premier High School**
- Radiance Academy**

Congratulations

Sarah,
We love the young lady and...
Small • EXAMPLE • \$30
Mom and Dad



This special section will also appear on our website - delrionewsherald.com

Congratulations



Shaniqua

We are very proud of all that you have accomplished!

Love
Mom, Dad,
Christopher,
Travis &
Samantha

Medium • EXAMPLE • \$50

- Small • \$30**
- Medium • \$50**
- Large • \$90**

Full Color: Additional \$100
Spot Color: Additional \$50

Publication Date:
Sunday, June 2

Deadline to buy your happy ad extended to Tuesday, May 28, 2013

To reserve your space, come by 2205 N. Bedell Ave, call (830) 775-1551 or email classifieds @delrionewsherald.com

Say goodbye to fungal toenails to prevent permanent damage

For only \$150 per treatment
may require additional treatments

Laser treatment for toenail fungus
Dr. Lee Keenen Jr., DPM
(210) - 86 LASER
(210) - 865-2737
www.laserfungusnow.com